

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, June 13, 2005
Volume 41—Number 23
Pages 945–979

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

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US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

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PRESORTED STANDARD
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GPO
PERMIT NO. G-26

Week Ending Friday, June 10, 2005

The President's Radio Address

June 4, 2005

Good morning. America's economy is on the right track. Over the past 2 years, we've added more than 3.5 million new jobs. More Americans are working today than ever before. Homeownership is at an alltime high. Small businesses are flourishing. Factory output is growing. And families are taking home more of what they earn.

These are hopeful signs for our economy, and we must work hard to sustain that prosperity. When Members of Congress return next week, they need to take action on four key priorities for the American people.

First, Congress needs to complete an energy bill. America is growing more dependent on foreign oil, and that is driving up the price of gasoline across the country. For the past 4 years, I've called on Congress to pass legislation that encourages energy conservation, promotes domestic production in environmentally friendly ways, funds research into new technologies to help us diversify away from foreign oil, and modernizes the electricity grid. I applaud the House for passing an energy bill. Now the American people expect the Senate to act, so I can sign a good energy bill into law by August.

Second, Americans expect Congress to be wise with their money. I proposed a disciplined Federal budget that makes tax relief permanent, holds the growth in discretionary spending below the rate of inflation, and reduces discretionary spending for non-security programs. The House and the Senate have worked together to pass a responsible budget resolution that keeps us on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. Now Congress must keep its promise to exercise restraint on spending bills and to rein in mandatory spending. The principle is clear: Every taxpayer dollar must be spent wisely or not at all.

Third, Congress needs to ratify the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, known as CAFTA. On Monday, I will travel to Florida to discuss CAFTA with leaders throughout the hemisphere. I look forward to telling them that CAFTA is a good deal for workers, farmers, and small businesses in the United States and throughout the hemisphere. About 80 percent of products from Central America and the Dominican Republic now enter the United States duty free. Yet, American exports to those countries face hefty tariffs. CAFTA will level the playing field by making about 80 percent of American exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic duty free. CAFTA will lower barriers in key sectors like textiles, which will make American manufacturers more competitive in the global market. And CAFTA will make our neighborhood more secure by strengthening young democracies. CAFTA is a practical, pro-jobs piece of legislation, and Congress needs to pass it soon.

Finally, Congress needs to move forward with Social Security reform. This past week, I traveled to Kentucky to talk about Social Security. Next Wednesday, I will discuss Social Security with builders and contractors in Washington, DC. At each stop, I remind seniors they will continue to receive their Social Security checks every month. I also remind everyone that Social Security is in serious trouble for our children and grandchildren. Americans of all ages have made it clear they expect their leaders in Washington to strengthen Social Security for future generations.

By taking action on all these priorities, Congress will strengthen the long-term economic security of the American people. Americans expect members of both parties to set aside partisan differences and get things done. I look forward to working with Congress to achieve results in the days ahead.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:30 p.m. on June 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 4. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks to the Opening Session of
the Organization of American States
General Assembly in Fort
Lauderdale, Florida**

June 6, 2005

Thank you all very much. Welcome to the United States. Thanks for having me. Madam Secretary, thank you for your service; thank you for your friendship; thank you for your short introduction. [*Laughter*]

Ambassador Maisto, Members of the United States Congress—four Members, by the way, of the Florida delegation have joined us today, and I'm grateful that they have come. Secretary General Insulza, thank you; congratulations. Thank you for coming by the Oval Office the other day to give me a briefing. Assistant Secretary General, thank you, sir. It's good to see you again. Distinguished visitors and guests. I'm honored to be here at this meeting of the Organization of American States.

The ties that bind the Americas are particularly vivid here in Florida. I mean, if you spend any time in this State, you'll find people from all over our hemisphere who live here. This State has benefited because immigrants from throughout the hemisphere have made their homes here. I know firsthand—I'm pretty familiar with the State's Governor. [*Laughter*] He keeps me abreast of what's taking place in this State.

You know, our ties are represented in different ways. Perhaps you know this, but my brother was lucky enough to marry a fantastic woman from Mexico; the First Lady of Florida is Mexican-born. A United States Senator from Florida, Mel Martinez, was born in Cuba. No, the ties in our hemisphere between America and our hemisphere are particularly strong in Florida. It's a perfect place to have the meeting. Thank you for choosing Florida.

As I look out at the distinguished foreign ministers, I find we have much in common. We're the children of the New World, founded in empire and fulfilled in independence. Our people are united by history and geography. And the United States shares a commitment with you to build an Americas that live in liberty, trades in freedom, and grows in prosperity.

We come together at a great moment in history, when freedom is on the march around our world. In the last year-and-a-half—think about this—we've witnessed a Rose Revolution in Georgia, an Orange Revolution in Ukraine, a Purple Revolution in Iraq, a Tulip Revolution in Kyrgyzstan, a Cedar Revolution in Lebanon, and these are just the beginnings. Across Central Asia, hope is stirring at the prospect of change, and change will come. Across the broader Middle East, we are seeing the rise of a new generation whose hearts burn for freedom, and they will have it.

This love of liberty has long roots in our own hemisphere. Not long after the United States won its independence from Britain, patriots throughout the Americas were inspired to take their own stand. One of them was an Argentine general named Jose de San Martin. During the struggle for independence from Spain, the general declared, "In the last corner of the Earth that I might find myself, I will be ready to sacrifice my existence for liberty."

San Martin's dream of liberty has found a home in the Organization of American States. This organization's founding documents calls the Americas to its "historic mission to offer to man a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the realization of his just aspirations." That mission was given its clear direction in the Inter-American Democratic Charter declaring that "the peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy, and their governments have an obligation to promote it and defend it." And today, what was once a distant dream is now within our reach, an Americas wholly free and democratic and at peace with ourselves and our neighbors.

In the new Americas of the 21st century, democracy is now the rule, rather than the exception. Think of the dramatic changes

we've seen in our lifetime. In 1974, the last time the OAS General Assembly met in the United States, fewer than half its members had democratically elected governments. Today, all 34 countries participating in this General Assembly have democratic, constitutional governments.

Only one country in this hemisphere sits outside this society of democratic nations, and one day the tide of freedom will reach Cuba's shores as well. The great Cuban patriot Jose Marti said it best, "*La libertad no es negociable.*"

The dramatic gains for democracy we have witnessed in our hemisphere must not be taken for granted. Democratic change and free elections are exhilarating events. Yet we know from experience they can be followed by moments of uncertainty. When people risk everything to vote, it can raise expectations that their lives will improve immediately, but history teaches us that the path to a free and prosperous society is long and not always smooth. Each nation must follow its own course, according to its own history. Yet the old and new democracies of the Americas share a common interest in showing every citizen of our hemisphere that freedom brings not just peace; it brings a better life for themselves and their families.

In the new Americas of the 21st century, bringing a better life to our people requires choosing between two competing visions. One offers a vision of hope. It is founded on representative government, integration into the world markets, and a faith in the transformative power of freedom in individual lives. The other seeks to roll back the democratic progress of the past two decades by playing to fear, pitting neighbor against neighbor, and blaming others for their own failures to provide for their people. The choices we make will determine which vision will define the Americas our children inherit. We must make wise decisions today to ensure a better tomorrow.

To give our children a better tomorrow, our citizens must see that democracy delivers more than promises. They need to see in their daily lives that their hard work and enterprises are rewarded. They need to see that in a democratic society, people can walk in the streets safely, corruption is punished, and

all citizens are equal before the law. And when the people of the Americas see that opportunity and social mobility are real, they will know that in a free and democratic society, the only limit to how far they can go is the size of their dreams.

The United States believes it has an obligation to help build this better tomorrow for all the citizens. Working with our partners in the region, my Government has helped the leaders of this hemisphere meet our goal of delivering treatment to 600,000 HIV sufferers across the region. In 2002, the United States launched the Millennium Challenge Account to help poor nations and to revolutionize the concept of development aid. My administration's approach is based on this commonsense idea that development aid works best in countries that are proving their commitment to govern justly, to invest in their citizens, and to open up their economies. Under this program, aid will go to those who deliver results for their people.

Next week, Honduras will become the second country to sign a Millennium Challenge compact—for a \$215 million program that will help Honduran farmers grow better crops, as well as money to build highways that will open markets for them around the region and the world.

To advance economic development in the Americas, the U.S. Government already makes about \$5 billion in loans and grants to the region throughout [through]^{*} the Ex-Im Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Trade and Development Agency. In preparation for the Summit of the Americas later this year in Argentina, my administration will be looking for new ways to prime the real engines of hope in the Americas, its small businesses and private enterprises and entrepreneurs. When people throughout the Americas see their lives improve and opportunity more abundant, their faith in democracy will grow and our hemisphere will be more secure.

In the new Americas of the 21st century, one of the surest ways to make opportunity real for all our citizens is by opening our doors to trade. My Government is pursuing this goal at all levels, at the global level

^{*} White House correction.

through the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization, at the regional level through the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and at the bilateral level with free trade agreements with individual countries like Chile and Mexico and Canada. And the United States Congress is now considering the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, which offers an historic opportunity to bring prosperity to the citizens of our hemisphere who have not known it.

For the young democracies of Central America, CAFTA would bring new investment, and that means good jobs and higher labor standards for their workers. In these nations, wealthier citizens already enjoy access to goods and services produced abroad. By reducing tariffs on U.S. goods, all consumers in these countries will enjoy better goods at lower prices. These lower prices will also give Central American small businesses and farmers and entrepreneurs less costly access to U.S. machinery and equipment, which will make them more competitive and help their economies grow. By bringing economic growth to Central America, CAFTA will contribute to the rise of a vibrant middle class. And that makes us reach—a step closer to our goal, a goal of the Americas where the opportunities in San Jose, Costa Rica, are as real as they are in San Jose, California.

For U.S. farmers and businesses and workers, CAFTA would expand opportunity by creating a more level playing field for our goods and services. Under existing rules, most of Central America's exports already enter the United States duty free, but U.S. exports still face hefty tariffs. By passing CAFTA, the United States would open up a market of 44 million consumers for our farmers and small-business people. CAFTA will replace a system that is often arbitrary with one that is fair and transparent and based on common rules.

For the Western Hemisphere, CAFTA would continue to advance the stability and security that come from freedom. An Americas linked by trade is less likely to be divided by resentment and false ideologies. An Americas where all our people live in prosperity will be more peaceful. And an Americas whose countries have reduced the barriers

to trade among ourselves will be a more competitive region in a global economy.

CAFTA is more than just a trade agreement; it is a signal of the U.S. commitment to democracy and prosperity for our neighbors, and I urge the United States Congress to pass it.

In the last half-century, the nations of the Americas have overcome enormous challenges, colonialism and communism and military dictatorship. At the start of this new century, these divisions have fallen away, and now we have it within our means to eliminate the scourge of poverty from our hemisphere. In this room, we still represent many different countries with different traditions and different mother tongues, but today we can say with pride that we all speak the common language of liberty. And by making the blessings of freedom real in our hemisphere, we will set a shining example for the rest of the world.

Thank you for letting me come by. *Que Dios los bendiga.* May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who introduced the President; Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and Assistant Secretary General Luigi R. Einaudi of the Organization of American States; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and his wife, Columba. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Reception for Black Music Month

June 6, 2005

Thank you all. Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are honored to have some of the country's finest entertainers with us tonight. We're here to celebrate Black Music Month, and we thank you all for coming.

For decades, Presidents have taken pride in welcoming black musicians to play in this house, and the performers seem to enjoy this place when they come. [Laughter] One of the greatest black musicians to visit the White House was Dizzy Gillespie. He liked

it so much here he became a write-in candidate for President in 1964. *[Laughter]* His platform included jazz in schools and Miles Davis as the head of the CIA. *[Laughter]* I'm not making that up. *[Laughter]*

Teresa, thank you very much for emceeding this event. I really thank our entertainers. You were great. Thank you for filling this house—*[applause]*. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined us. I appreciate Senator George Allen from Virginia and Congressman Bobby Scott from Virginia for joining us as well. A lot of distinguished Americans here, and we're really glad you're here. Welcome.

Each June, we honor the great contributions that black musicians have made to America and to the world. The music of African American artists has enhanced our lives and created some of the Nation's most treasured art forms, and that's why we celebrate this month. From gospel music to blues to jazz to rock and roll, the songs of America's black musicians have defined their times and have enriched our culture.

It's hard to imagine America without the genius of Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie, the voices of Lena Horn and Diana Ross and Ella Fitzgerald and so many others. We just can't envision our country without those voices. Their achievements remind us that our diversity makes our country strong.

The artists we celebrate this month use music to lift the human spirit. Black music in America began with the work songs and spirituals of people held in slavery. Their songs bore witness to cruelty and earthly injustice, and yet in them, we hear the voice of faith lifted up to God. That music could have come only from the unique experience of African Americans, yet it speaks a language that all Americans understand.

The Psalms tell us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." You lived up to the Psalms. *[Laughter]* Smokie, Mary Mary, and Donnie understand that part of the Gospel. *[Laughter]* These gospel artists have found a modern audience for a timeless music, and they have never forgot their purpose. Pastor Donnie likes to say, "If you ever want to get anybody in touch with God, sing to them." He has a whole congregation on Long Island

saying amen when he sings, kind of like he had in the White House. *[Laughter]*

At its best, music speaks to every heart, and some moving performances by black musicians have happened right here at the White House. You just witnessed one. In 1882, a black choir called the Fisk Jubilee Singers moved President Arthur to tears with their performance of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Sissieretta Jones, the daughter of a slave, sang opera here in the White House for President Benjamin Harrison. In 1939, Marian Andersen performed "Ave Maria" for Franklin Roosevelt right here in this room. President Roosevelt said that "music can make us all more vividly aware of the common humanity which is ours." Let history record, you had me jumping in my seat. *[Laughter]*

Throughout our history, African American artists have created music with the power to change hearts and reshape our national conscience. The songs of black musicians heralded social change. Music like jazz and blues communicated across racial barriers. That music began in America's country churches and urban clubs of Chicago, New Orleans, and Harlem. Today, it is cherished here at home and around the world.

And our black musicians continue to inspire us and bring us together. Across the country, American cities and towns will celebrate Black Music Month with their own festivals. We're just a small part of a larger celebration. From the Chicago Blues Festival to the B.B. King Homecoming Festival in Mississippi to the JVC Jazz Festival in New York City, people of all races and ages and creeds will come together on warm June nights to celebrate these musicians and their music.

Today, African American artists have continued to set standards of originality and creativity. The incredible talents of black musicians keep lifting their art and lifting the souls of America. We heard that talent today. We're grateful to all the black musicians who have brought such beauty and pride to our country, and we're grateful to you all.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Teresa Hairston, founder and publisher, Gospel Today; and entertainers Smokie Norful, Mary Mary, and Donnie McClurkin.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

June 7, 2005

President Bush. Thank you all. Good afternoon. Laura and I are really honored to welcome the Prime Minister and Cherie back to the White House. Welcome, Tony, glad you're here. Congratulations on your great victory. It was a landmark victory, and I'm really thrilled to be able to work with you to spread freedom and peace over the next years.

Our alliance with Great Britain is strong, and it's essential to peace and security. Together our two nations worked to liberate Europe from fascism. Together we defended freedom during the cold war. Today, we're standing together again to fight the war on terror, to secure democracy and freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and the broader Middle East, and to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. As we face the challenges and opportunities of a new century, our alliance is stronger than ever.

Prime Minister Blair and I share a common vision of a world that is free, prosperous, and at peace. When men and women are free to choose their own governments, to speak their minds, and to pursue a good life for their families, they build a strong, prosperous, and just society.

This is the vision chosen by Iraqis in elections in January, and the United States and Britain will stand with the Iraqi people as they continue their journey toward freedom and democracy. We'll support Iraqis as they take the lead in providing their own security. Our strategy is clear: We're training Iraqi forces so they can take the fight to the enemy, so they can defend their country. And then our troops will come home with the honor they have earned.

By spreading freedom throughout the broader Middle East, we'll end the bitterness and hatred that feed the ideology of terror. We're working together to help build the

democratic institutions of a future Palestinian state. We support Israel's disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. We're advancing the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

We also share a commitment to help the people of Africa build strong democratic institutions and healthy economies. The Prime Minister has made the promotion of reform and development in Africa a centerpiece of the G-8 summit that the United Kingdom will be hosting next month. And I'm grateful for your vision, and I'm grateful for your leadership on this important subject.

Helping those who suffer and preventing the senseless death of millions of people in Africa is a central commitment of my administration's foreign policy. We're making historic progress in helping the poorest countries in Africa gain a fresh start and to build a future of greater opportunity and prosperity. America will continue to lead the world to meet our duty in helping the world's most vulnerable people.

Over the past 4 years, we have tripled our assistance to sub-Saharan Africa, and now America accounts for nearly a quarter of all the aid in the region. And we're committed to doing more in the future. We also agree that highly indebted developing countries that are on the path to reform should not be burdened by mountains of debt. Our countries are developing a proposal for the G-8 that will eliminate 100 percent of that debt, and that, by providing additional resources, will preserve the financial integrity of the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

As we work with African nations to develop democratic institutions and vibrant economies that will provide greater opportunity for all Africans, we must also address emergency needs. I'm pleased to announce the United States will provide approximately \$674 million of additional resources to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Africa. One of those emergencies is the growing hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa. In response to this need, \$414 million of those additional resources will be provided immediately to avert

famine there. We urge the international community to join us in committing greater resources to the humanitarian needs in Africa.

I also look forward to working with the Prime Minister through the G-8 to forge a new strategy for the 21st century that helps countries achieve economic prosperity, energy security, and a clean environment to improve public health by cutting air—public air pollution and to address global change, subjects which I look forward to discussing at the G-8, Mr. Prime Minister. To develop and make available clean and efficient technologies that will help attain these goals has got to be part of our dialog at the G-8.

I look forward to also continuing our discussion to support freedom and democracy in the broader Middle East.

The United States congratulates the United Kingdom as it takes over the Presidency of the EU on July the first. The United States has a wide-ranging and active agenda with Europe, and we're determined to work together to meet the global challenges common to us all. The Prime Minister and I believe a strong Europe that acts in partnership with the United States is important for world peace.

I appreciate your leadership, Tony Blair. I appreciate your friendship. I appreciate your courage, and I appreciate your vision. Welcome back to America.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you very much, indeed, Mr. President, and I say how delighted we are to be back here in the White House and to say thank you for your warm welcome.

And we've also got a busy agenda ahead of us in the international community over the coming months. We've obviously discussed, as the President has just indicated, the issues to do with the G-8 summit. And on Africa, I think there is a real and common desire to help that troubled continent come out of the poverty and deprivation that so many millions of its people suffer. In a situation where literally thousands of children die from preventable diseases every day, it's our duty to act, and we will.

But we know that there are two things very clear about Africa today. The first is, that though it is important that we commit the resources to Africa that are necessary, it's not

just about resources. It's also about debt. It's about trade. It's about making sure that we deal with these diseases, HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, polio, that are killing so many people. It's about conflict resolution and having the proper peacekeeping and peace enforcement mechanisms.

And it's about making sure that in doing this, that it's not a something-for-nothing deal. We also need to make sure that there is a commitment on the part of the African leadership to proper governance, to action against corruption, to making sure that the aid and the resources that we're prepared to commit actually go to the people that need it and do the job that it's supposed to do.

So we are trying to create a framework in which we deal not just with one of the issues to do with Africa but all of them together and deal with it on a basis of a partnership with the African leadership that's prepared to embrace the same values of democracy and freedom that we embrace.

In respect of debt and debt cancellation, I'm pleased at the progress that we're making. And I think we are well on the way—I hope we can, if we're able to, conclude a deal at the finance ministers' meeting this weekend, but one that will involve 100 percent debt cancellation and also the commitment of the additional funding necessary to make sure that the institutions aren't penalized as a result of that. And if that substantial funding is added also to the debt cancellation, I think it will make a real difference to those African countries.

But we know there's a lot more to do. And over the coming weeks, in the run-up to the summit that will take place in Scotland, we want to carry on working on the specific programs in relation to things like education and infrastructure and dealing with the killer diseases, that allow us to make the commitment that we need.

On climate change, I think everyone knows there are different perspectives on this issue. But I also think that it's increasingly obvious, whatever perspective people have and whatever—from whatever angle they come at this issue, there is a common commitment and desire to tackle the challenges of climate change, of energy security and energy supply. And we need to make sure that

we do that. And again, I hope over the coming weeks, we will work closely on this.

On the Middle East and the Middle East peace process—of course, we had a discussion about this. I would just like to emphasize again the vital necessity of making sure that democracy succeeds in Iraq. Our troops work together very, very closely there, and I would like to pay tribute not just to the bravery of the British troops that work there and other coalition troops but to the United States forces that do such a magnificent job there and often in very, very difficult circumstances. And yet it is absolutely vital for the security not just of that country and of that region but of the world, that we succeed in Iraq. And the reason it's tough is because people know what's at stake. And what's at stake is the ability of Iraq finally to function properly as a democracy, run for the good of its people. And our help in ensuring that Iraq can attain that goal is of vital importance, not just to our countries but to the future of the world.

In addition, of course, the progress that's being made in respect to the Middle East peace process is very welcome. Mr. President, I'd like to thank you for your leadership on that issue, which has been extremely important.

We also had an opportunity to discuss issues to do with Iran and Libya and Afghanistan and a range of different matters. But once again, let me thank you very much for inviting me here and to come back after my reelection. Thank you for the kind words about that. And I look forward to working not just on the issues to do with the G-8 but on the full range of the international agenda with you. It's a good alliance and a good partnership for our two countries, and I believe for the wider world.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Blair. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. We'll answer two questions a side. Jennifer [Jennifer Loven, Associated Press].

U.S. Aid to Africa

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Prime Minister Blair has been pushing for wealthy na-

tions to double aid to Africa. With American aid levels among the lowest in the G-8 as per portion of national income and the problems on the continent so dire, why isn't doubling U.S. aid a good idea?

President Bush. Well, first, as I said in my statement, we've tripled aid to Africa. Africa is an important part of my foreign policy. I remember when I first talked to Condi when I was trying to convince her to become the National Security Adviser, she said, "Are you going to pay attention to the continent of Africa?" I said, "You bet." And I've fulfilled that commitment. We've convinced Congress to triple aid. We've got a significant HIV/AIDS initiative that we're undertaking. We started what's called the Millennium Challenge Account, and we'll do more down the road.

Now, in terms of whether or not the formula that you commented upon are the right way to analyze the United States commitment to her, I don't think it is. I mean, I don't think—there's a lot of things that aren't counted in our desire to spread compassion. But our country is—has taken the lead in Africa, and we'll stay there. It's the right thing to do. It's important to help Africa get on her feet.

And by the way, I think one of things that many African nations have come to discover is that through trade they can develop a more hopeful society rather than through aid. I mean, aid helps, but we passed what's called AGOA, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, and have extended it. It passed during President Clinton's period. My administration extended it, with Congress, and it's made an enormous difference to young economies. When you open up your market to entrepreneurs and small businesses, it helps spread wealth. And that's, after all, what we're trying to achieve.

So I'm proud of our accomplishments, and we'll continue to take the lead on the issue.

Prime Minister Blair. Okay—Andy [Andrew Marr, BBC].

President Bush. Andy is still with you.

Prime Minister Blair. He is.

Debt Relief/Reciprocation of African Nations

Q. For a brief period, Mr. President. I'm from BBC. Could I ask both leaders—I understand from what you say that you're pretty close to cracking the differences between you about how to pay for debt cancellation for the poorest countries. Is that the case, and can you tell us any more about that?

And also, if I may, to the President, Mr. Blair's Africa Commission has really raised the ante quite a lot in Africa, talking about this big historic moment for the world and the continent. Do you see it that way too?

President Bush. I do. That's why we tripled aid. I see we have got a fantastic opportunity, presuming that the countries in Africa make the right decisions. Nobody wants to give money to a country that's corrupt, where leaders take money and put it in their pocket. No developed nation is going to want to support a government that doesn't take an interest in her people, that doesn't focus on education and health care. We're really not interested in supporting a government that doesn't have open economies and open markets. We expect there to be a reciprocation. That's what the Prime Minister talked about.

But absolutely, it's a great opportunity. And I'm honored to be working with the Prime Minister on this important subject.

Prime Minister Blair. I think in relation to the debt cancellation, yes, I think we're well on the way to agreement on that. But it's important to realize we need, obviously, America and the UK to be in agreement, but then we need to get the agreement of the others. So we've got to watch how we manage that process and bring everyone into it.

But yes, I think there is a real desire to make sure that we cancel the debt and cancel the debt in such a way that it doesn't inhibit or disadvantage the international institutions.

I think, in relation to Africa more generally, it's important—in respect to the Africa Commission report—we set out a figure of the doubling of aid, and \$25 billion extra is effectively what that would mean. But the important thing is not to take the figure out of the air but to realize the Commission for Africa reached that figure on the basis of an analysis of what Africa needs. And I think

that this is what we can do over the coming weeks.

In relation to specific areas where we accept there is a real need and we can act and we can act in a way, what is more, that is not going to waste the money given but is going to put it to the use to which it's supposed to be put—on education, on malaria, on HIV/AIDS, on things like water sanitation, on the peacekeeping, peace enforcement aspect of conflict resolution in Africa—we have got the chance over the next period of time to make a definitive commitment, but it is a two-way commitment. We require the African leadership—this is what the President is saying—we require the African leadership also to be prepared to make the commitment on governance, against corruption, in favor of democracy, in favor of the rule of law.

Now, there are African nations that are prepared to make that commitment today. They're going to get help. What we're not going to do is waste our countries' money. So that is the nature of what we are trying to put together. Obviously, there's going to be a lot of discussions over the next few weeks to—because it's at Gleneagles that we will get the final package there. But I'm hopeful after the discussions that we've had today that we can get there.

President Bush. Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Downing Street Memo

Q. Thank you, sir. On Iraq, the so-called Downing Street memo from July 2002 says intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy of removing Saddam through military action. Is this an accurate reflection of what happened? Could both of you respond?

Prime Minister Blair. Well, I can respond to that very easily. No, the facts were not being fixed in any shape or form at all, and let me remind you that that memorandum was written before we then went to the United Nations. Now, no one knows more intimately the discussions that we were conducting as two countries at the time than me. And the fact is we decided to go to the United Nations and went through that process, which resulted in the November 2002

United Nations resolution, to give a final chance to Saddam Hussein to comply with international law. He didn't do so. And that was the reason why we had to take military action.

But all the way through that period of time, we were trying to look for a way of managing to resolve this without conflict. As it happened, we weren't able to do that because, as I think was very clear, there was no way that Saddam Hussein was ever going to change the way that he worked or the way that he acted.

President Bush. Well, I—you know, I read kind of the characterizations of the memo, particularly when they dropped it out in the middle of his race. I'm not sure who "they dropped it out" is, but—I'm not suggesting that you all dropped it out there. [Laughter] And somebody said, "Well, you know, we had made up our mind to go to use military force to deal with Saddam." There's nothing farther from the truth.

My conversation with the Prime Minister was, "How could we do this peacefully? What could we do?" And this meeting, evidently, that took place in London happened before we even went to the United Nations—or I went to the United Nations. And so it's—look, both us of didn't want to use our military. Nobody wants to commit military into combat. It's the last option. The consequences of committing the military are very difficult. The hardest things I do as the President is to try to comfort families who've lost a loved one in combat. It's the last option that the President must have, and it's the last option I know my friend had as well.

And so we worked hard to see if we could figure out how to do this peacefully, take a—put a united front up to Saddam Hussein, and say, "The world speaks," and he ignored the world. Remember, 1441 passed the Security Council unanimously. He made the decision. And the world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

Prime Minister Blair. Nick.

Eradication of Poverty in Africa/Climate Change

Q. Nick Robinson, ITV News. You've talked of what you've hoped to do for Africa. Do you regard the phrase "make poverty his-

tory" as rhetoric from rock stars? Or do you really believe in your gut that this the year it could happen?

And Mr. President, if I may as well on climate change—you didn't talk about climate change—do you believe that climate change is manmade and that you, personally, as the leader of the richest country in the world, have a responsibility to reverse that change?

President Bush. Let me address your first question. Talk about—you said I'm willing to talk about what we're going to do. I want you to focus on what we have done, for starters. I mean, part of the—part of this world, we've got a lot of big talkers. What I like to say is my administration actually does what we say we're going to do, and we have. When I say we're going to make a commitment to triple aid in Africa, I meant it, and we did. When I said we're going to lead an initiative, an HIV/AIDS initiative, the likes of which the world has never seen before, on the continent of Africa, we have done that, and we're following through. And so when I say we're going to do more, I think you can take that to the bank, as we say, because of what we have done. We have taken a leadership role.

Second question—do I believe in my gut we can eradicate poverty? I do believe we can eradicate poverty. And by the way, Bono has come to see me. I admire him. He is a man of depth and a great heart who cares deeply about the impoverished folks on the continent of Africa, and I admire his leadership on the issue. And so I do believe—I don't view—I can't remember how you characterized the rock stars, but I don't characterize them that way, having met the man.

In terms of climate change, I've always said it's a serious, long-term issue that needs to be dealt with. And my administration isn't waiting around to deal with the issue. We're acting. I don't know if you're aware of this, but we lead the world when it comes to dollars spent, millions of dollars spent on research about climate change. We want to know more about it. It's easier to solve a problem when you know a lot about it. And if you look at the statistics, you'll find the United States has taken the lead on this research.

Secondly, we're spending a lot of money on developing ways to diversify away from a hydrocarbon society. America must do that for national security reasons and economic security reasons. And that's why I laid out the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Initiative, with the understanding that our country is going to have to diversify away from the type of automobiles we drive.

And it's beginning to happen here. We'll have more fuel cells—cars driven by fuel cells on the road next year than we had the past year, and more after that. We're beginning to change. Technology is changing how we can approach energy, and the technology—mating technology and energy independence from hydrocarbon also will produce a cleaner environment.

We're spending a lot of money on clean coal technology. That's going to be very important for a country like ours and a country like China. And one of the issues we've got to deal—figure out how to deal with is how we share that technology with developing nations. You cannot leave developing nations out of the mix if you expect to have a cleaner world.

I strongly believe that the world needs to share technologies on nuclear power. I don't see how you can be—diversify away from hydrocarbons unless you use clean nuke. And so we need to work together on developing technologies that will not only ensure people that nuclear power will be safe but that we can dispose of it in a safe way.

I'll tell you an interesting opportunity for not only here but for the rest of the world is biodiesel. That is a fuel developed from soybeans. I kind of, in jest, like to travel our country, saying, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if someday the President sat down and looked at the crop report, and said, 'Man, we've got a lot of soybeans. It means we're less dependent on foreign sources of energy.' " We're spending money to figure out how best to refine soy into diesel.

See, there's a lot of things we're doing in America, and I believe that not only can we solve greenhouse gas, I believe we will. And I appreciate the Prime Minister bringing this issue up. I look forward to sharing that which we know here in America with not only the G-8 members but, equally importantly, with

developing countries. And not only that, I'm convinced that we can use technology to help keep the air cleaner and the water purer and develop economies around the world at the same time. That's going to be one of the great advances in technology in the coming years.

Thank you for your question. Good to see you all.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 4:46 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Cherie Booth Blair, wife of Prime Minister Blair; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and musician and activist Bono.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

June 8, 2005

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the Oval Office. We've had an extensive visit about a lot of issues, and the reason why is because Turkey and the United States has an important strategic relationship. I told the Prime Minister how grateful I was that he was a—is a strong supporter of the broader Middle Eastern initiative. Turkey's democracy is an important example for the people in the broader Middle East, and I want to thank you for your leadership.

Along these lines, I thanked the Prime Minister for Turkey's leadership role in Afghanistan. I was most impressed by his report from his trip to Afghanistan and his deep concern for the conditions of the people there and his desire to work with the United States and NATO countries to help improve the lives of the children, for example, in Afghanistan.

We discussed a lot of foreign policy and shared interests between our countries. And one of the most important foreign policy initiatives of my administration—and I know the Prime Minister shares the same desire—is to work with the Palestinians so they can have their own state, their own democracy, living side by side in peace with Israel.

And finally, we discussed the domestic issues. We discussed our economies, and the Prime Minister reminded me that the—in his judgment, Turkey is a good place for U.S.

investment. I listened very carefully to what he had to say, but we spent—all in all, it was a very rich and important discussion.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for coming.

Prime Minister Erdogan. Thank you, Mr. President. In our meeting with the President, we discussed and evaluated the political partnership that we have with the United States, and we looked into the future with regard to our relations. I can summarize the main titles of our discussion as freedom, democracy, rule of law, fight against terrorism, security, and human rights.

We also had an opportunity to talk about the broader Middle East initiative, with regard to regional developments. We also discussed the Cyprus issue. And we were able to discuss with some depth the issues with regard to Israel, Palestine, the situation in Iraq, Afghanistan.

We discussed and I'm confident that we will continue to have the same kind of solidarity we've had in Turkish-U.S. relations in the past, in the future as well.

I also mentioned to the President that Turkey is open to any new investment as a country now of stability and security. And we were very happy to see that the President agreed that he had a positive view on investments.

And we're happy that we were able to confirm that our strategic relationship will move and will take place in the future, as it has been done in the past.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Prime Minister Erdogan spoke in Turkish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks at the Associated Builders and Contractors National Legislative Conference

June 8, 2005

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for the kind introduction, Gary, it's good to keep it in the old Texas family. [Laughter] All you other Texans who are

here, make sure you behave yourself. [Laughter]

But I'm really honored to be here. I appreciate ABC; I appreciate your leadership. I appreciate the entrepreneurial spirit. I appreciate the fact that you're hiring people and making your communities better in which you live. I want to thank Carole Bionda and Kirk Pickerel and the board of directors for having me here.

You made a mistake, you should have invited Laura—[laughter]—to be your speaker, if you were looking for the A-team in our family. She's become quite the comedienne. [Laughter] I'm pleased to report, though, that she's doing great. I'm a lucky man when she said yes when I asked her to marry me. And I think the country is lucky to have her as the First Lady.

You know, I came to Washington to get some things done. This isn't my permanent home. I'm going to give it my all, put my energy into the job, and pour my soul into my work, and when time is up, I'm going to head back home. But I want it to be said that my administration came to Washington, DC, to solve problems. And when we had a problem—that we square—that we dealt with it squarely. And we did it based upon principle. And we've been presented with some problems in this administration. One of them was a recession, because of an enemy attack and the downcycle in the economy. We had to deal with the recession.

And at the heart of my decisionmaking was my understanding that most new jobs in America are created by small businesses, and therefore any relief, any decisions as to how to deal with the recession had to be good policy for small businesses. And the tax relief we passed made a difference for our small businesses here in America.

And the economic policy is working. I mean, after all, more people work in America today than ever before in our Nation's history. The unemployment rate is down to 5.1 percent. Small businesses are flourishing. The entrepreneurial spirit is strong. But there's more work to be done; there's more work to be done.

One of the main jobs we have here in Washington is to protect our country. You see, not only did the attacks help accelerate

a recession; the attacks reminded us that we are at war. It's a different kind of war. It's a war that has taken the country a while to adjust to, because we're not facing nation states; we're facing terrorist organizations that know no border, terrorist organizations that know no conduct the way civilized nations know it when it comes to fighting war. They'll kill innocent people like that in order to justify a hateful ideology, which means that we've got to do a couple of things here out of Washington.

One, we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland, and we are. We're doing a better job of collecting and analyzing intelligence and sharing intelligence. Tomorrow I'm going to go to Columbus, Ohio, to talk about the renewal of the PATRIOT Act, which is an important piece of legislation that on the one hand guarantees the civil liberties of the American people, but on the other hand, gives our terror fighters the same tools that we use to deal with drug lords or white-collar criminals. We're making progress about making sure Federal agencies do a better job of communicating.

The best way to defend the homeland, though, is to stay on the offense, is to find these people, is to defeat them abroad so we don't have to face them at home. And that's exactly what the United States of America is doing. And for those of you who have got a loved one in the United States military, I want to say two things to you: One, we'll make sure your loved one has whatever is necessary to protect America; and secondly, thank you for their sacrifice.

And the second way to defeat the terrorists is to spread freedom. You see, the best way to defeat a society that is—doesn't have hope, a society where people become so angry they're willing to become suiciders, is to spread freedom, is to spread democracy. You know, during the course of the last campaign, I used to tell people about the power of liberty to transform societies. And what I meant by that was that one of my close associates in world politics is Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan. He's a buddy. He's a friend. He's the kind of guy you can sit down at the table and say, "What are we going to do together to help keep the peace," how best to deal with the—with Kim Chong-il in North

Korea, for example. We strategize, all aimed at making the world a more peaceful place.

But it wasn't all that long ago that an 18-year-old Navy pilot named George H.W. Bush—and I'm confident some of your relatives—were at war with Japan. When you really think about it, 60 years isn't all that long ago, is it? And yet today, the enemy has become a friend. And the reason why that enemy is a friend is because of freedom and democracy. Democracy has got the capacity to change the world.

I believe everybody wants to be free. I believe mothers all across the world, regardless of their religion or where they live, want to bring up their children in a free society. I believe that is a universal drive and a universal desire. And it has been proven that democracies are peaceful. The best way to defeat terrorism in the long run and the best way to leave behind a foundation for peace for a generation of Americans coming up is to spread freedom and democracy around the world. And freedom is on the march.

For the youngsters here today, I want you to pay attention to what's in the news. You're living in a remarkable period. Just think about what has happened in a quick period of time. Millions voted in Afghanistan. Millions defied the suiciders in Iraq to vote. People turned out in the town squares across Lebanon demanding freedom. In the Ukraine there was a freedom revolution. People in the world want to be free, and the United States of America will promote democracy and promote freedom movements for the sake of peace and stability.

So while we'll continue to work to do our duty to secure you, we got to do work here at home to keep this economy growing, and here's some practical ways to do that. First, I understand that health care is an issue for small businesses. See, if most new jobs are created by small businesses, it makes sense to have good economic policies that help small businesses. And so, therefore, one of the things we've got to do is to be wise about how we help small businesses deal with insurance, health insurance.

One thing is for certain, to deal with health insurance—is we need to pass medical liability reform. One reason your premiums are

high is because of the junk and frivolous lawsuits that are running good doctors out of practice and running up the cost of medicine. When I first came to Washington, I wasn't so sure this was a Federal issue. You know, being the former Governor of a State, I kind of felt like States could take care of medical liability issues. But you see, all these lawsuits cause docs to practice what they call defensive medicine. They practice more medicine than necessary just in case they get sued. And all these lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine because premiums go up, that they pass on to the billpayer. Well, it just so happened the Federal Government pays a lot of medical bills. See, we're paying Medicare and Medicaid and veterans benefits. It is estimated that these junk lawsuits are costing taxpayers about \$27 billion a year.

And so I decided, well, maybe this wasn't a State issue. Maybe this was a Federal issue since it's affecting our Federal budget so much, and it's a Federal issue that requires a Federal response. And so I put a good bill out. The House passed it. It's stuck in the United States Senate. For the sake of affordable health care, the Senate needs to get a good medical liability bill out of that—[*ap-
plause*].

A couple of other practical ideas that small businesses need to look at and that Congress needs to act upon, one of them is health savings accounts. I urge you to take a good look at HSAs as a good way to help deal with the rising cost of health care and, at the same time, make sure your employees have got coverage. Take a look at it.

A second plan that makes sense is to allow small businesses to pool risk across jurisdictional boundaries—what's called association health care plans. It means that if you're a small business in Texas and you're a small business in New Jersey, that you can be in the same risk pool if you share the same type of industry—restauranteur, for example, in Maine and a restauranteur in Florida can be in the same risk pool. Obviously, the more people in the pool, the more you spread risk, the lower the cost. The way I like to put it is this: Congress ought to allow small businesses to join together so they can buy insurance at the same discount that big businesses

get to do, for the sake of health care for small businesses and their employees.

One way to make sure this economy continues to grow is to show the markets and the people that we're wise about how we spend your money. I sent some budgets up to Congress that are lean, that said, "Well, let's—why don't we set priorities and also ask the question of, you know, some of these programs we're funding, are they working? And if they're not working, let's stop funding them," kind of a results-oriented system. I'm pleased to report both the House and the Senate passed my budget, which by the way, will mean that we can cut the deficit in half in a 5-year period of time without raising your taxes.

Speaking about taxes, if we want this economy to continue to grow, we got to keep them low. The Congress ought to make the tax relief we passed permanent. Part of that tax relief was a provision I know you might be interested in. You see, I believe a person ought to be allowed to pass their assets on to whomever they want without the Government taxing them twice, once while you're alive and right after you die. We put the death tax on the way to extinction, except unfortunately the law says that in 2011, it's going to come back to life again. That's not fair, and it's not right. The Congress needs to make sure that death tax is gone forever, for the sake of small businesses.

I'm going to make two other points about how to make sure this economy grows. One of them is going to be—I'm going to talk about Social Security. I think that's an economic issue. It's a funding issue. It's an issue that says we got a lot of debt that we owe people, and the fundamental question is how are we going to pay for it.

The other issue, before I get there, is energy. You know, when I first came to Washington, I recognized that we were—our dependency upon foreign sources of oil was going to be a problem for us. You see, if you're depending upon somebody else to provide energy, at some point in time it becomes an issue, either an economic issue or a national security issue or both. And so I put a strategy up to the United States Congress, said, "Look, why don't we do something smart. Why don't we put an energy

strategy into law that will accomplish some important goals.” They’ve been debating this energy strategy for 4 years. And so I’m here to describe to you our strategy and, at the same time, remind the United States Congress that for the sake of economic security and national security, they need to get an energy bill to my desk by August of this year.

American families and small businesses are paying higher gasoline bills, which is like a tax. And I understand that this has—that this tax has a drag on our economy. It’s money that’s going out of your coffers that could be otherwise used to pay a laborer or pay for health care. And the reason why your gasoline bills are going up is because we are dependent on foreign sources of energy. We import over 60 percent of the crude oil, which is the major stock for gasoline, from overseas—or about 60 percent. That’s a lot. And therefore, when global demand is such and price goes up, we pay for it at the pump.

And so I said to Congress, “We need to diversify away from a hydrocarbon society. Now, that’s going to take awhile, but we need to lay the groundwork to do so.” And what does that mean? It means we’ve got to be better conservers of energy. We’ve got to have an incentive for people to conserve more. We can do a better job of being wise about how we use our resources.

Secondly, we need to spend money on research and development to figure out how to use soybeans, for example, to develop fuel. Now, I went to a plant the other day in Virginia, a small soybean refinery, where they’re making soy diesel—diesel fuel out of soybeans, called biodiesel. The more diesel engines there are that can use soybean fuel, the less dependent we are on foreign sources of energy. It makes sense to explore ways to make sure that we can use corn or soybeans to diversify away from oil that come from a foreign country. We’re spending money on clean coal technology. Do you realize we’ve got 250 million years [250 years]^{*} of coal? But coal has got environmental hazards to it, but there’s—I’m convinced, and I know that we—technology can be developed so we can have zero-emissions coal-fired electricity plants.

^{*} White House correction.

We ought to be using nuclear power. It’s a renewable source of energy. I know that technology has changed where I could say to the American people, nuclear power is a lot safer than it ever has been in the past. These are all parts of this energy bill that Congress needs to pass to encourage renewable sources of energy, different sources of energy, clean sources of energy that will enable us to be less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

We need to be, by the way, exploring for oil and gas in our own hemisphere in environmentally friendly ways. You know, a hot issue here is ANWR, the big tract of land in Alaska. It’s millions and millions and millions of acres. And yet, because of the advance of technology, we can find oil and gas on those millions of acres in a tract of land about 2,000 acres in size. It’s an amazing technological advance. But we ought to be using this technology to make us less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

There’s a lot of things we need to be doing and are doing. I don’t know if you remember, but I put out a new initiative for exploring the possibility of using hydrogen to power automobiles. See, I believe in 10-years’ time, with the wise use of taxpayers’ money, a new generation of Americans will be driving automobiles driven by hydrogen, not by oil and gas.

Congress needs to stop debating this issue and stop playing politics and get this bill at my desk so I can say to the American people, this country has got a strategy which may not pay off yesterday but will pay off tomorrow for the American people.

There’s one other issue I want to talk about; that’s Social Security. First, Social Security worked great for a lot of folks for a long period of time. My predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, did a smart thing in setting up the Social Security system. Social Security provided a safety net for a lot of seniors, and it was an important safety net. So you know, I’m traveling—or you may not know; I’ll tell you now; you will know—[laughter]—I’m traveling a lot talking about Social Security. I’m meeting people that say, “I’m dependent upon my Social Security check.” I’m confident you know folks that say, “I need my check. It’s a part of my life.”

And so the system has worked fine for a lot of folks. As a matter of fact, it's going to work fine for everybody born prior to 1950. So if you're a senior getting your Social Security check out there, you have nothing to worry about. The system is solvent for you. You're in good shape. I don't care what the politicians say. I don't care what the ads say, the pamphlets say. Don't let them scare you. You're going to get your check, and that's important for people to understand.

But if you're a younger citizen, you'd better be paying attention to this issue. And here's the reason why—here's the reason why. There's a lot of people like me—we're called the baby boomers—who are getting ready to retire. See, my retirement date is 2008. *[Laughter]* I'm turning 62 years old on 2008. *[Laughter]* It's a convenient time. *[Laughter]* And I'm just the beginning of the baby boomers. See, I was born in 1946, we're called the leading edge of the baby boomers. And there's a lot of others behind me.

Do you realize that there's about 40 million Americans retired today. By the time the baby boomer generation fully retires, there will be 72 million Americans, more or less. There is a lot of us. We're living longer than the previous generation. You know, we're living longer, I hope, than any other generation. I'm pulling for that part of my generation. *[Laughter]* And a lot of politicians have run prior—in prior years, and said, "Vote for me. I'll increase the benefits for a generation coming up." And you know what? They did. And so therefore, my generation, our generation, which will be living longer—and more of us—have been promised greater benefits, which is okay until you realize this aspect of the problem: Fewer people are now paying into the system.

In 1950, there was about 15 workers per every retiree. In other words, the load was pretty well spread across a group of people paying payroll taxes. Today, there's 3.3 workers per retiree. Soon there's going to be two workers per retiree, trying to take care of a generation which is going to be living longer with greater benefits and a lot of us. So that's the problem. That's the math. That's the beginning of your understanding—or the country's understanding of why we have a problem.

Let me put it in terms of dollars for you. In 2017, the system goes into the red. In other words, more benefits going out than payroll taxes coming in. In about 2027, it's about \$200 billion short. In other words, every year from 2017, the red—the deficit gets larger and larger and larger. In 2027, it's 200 billion. In the 2030's, it's about 300 billion. In 2041, the system is bust.

Now, think about that for a minute. We're fine, by the way, those of us born before 1950. All seniors who are getting their check, you're in good shape. But you need to start asking people who have been elected to office what we intend to do about this problem for your children and grandchildren, because we're asking young Americans to come up in a system and pay a pretty sizeable payroll tax into a system where those of us in Washington who look at the facts understand it's going broke. That doesn't seem to make sense to me. That doesn't seem like good stewardship of the people's money, nor does it seem like good leadership. See, my job as the President of the United States is to confront a problem if I see one and not pass it on to future Presidents and future Congresses.

I see a problem. I've just defined it to you, and it's clear. This is a—these are solid numbers that I'm talking about. You can't—people in Washington can't say, "Baby boomers aren't getting ready to retire." And there's a lot of us who have been promised more benefits, and we're living longer. That's a fact. And it's a fact that fewer people are paying into the system. And it's a fact this system is going bankrupt. I'm—and so I'm going to keep talking about it.

My strategy is pretty simple: Explain the problem to the American people and keep explaining it and explaining it and explaining it and assuring seniors that you're going to get your check. And then at some point, the people of this country are going to say to Republicans and Democrats alike, "Why aren't you doing something about the problem? I'm beginning to understand the problem as a citizen, now how come you, as an elected official, aren't doing something about it?" And we're making progress. People understand there's a problem.

I remember early on after I got elected, I told Members of Congress, I said, "I'm going to take this issue on." Frankly, there wasn't all that much applause when I said it. [Laughter] Some folks up here would rather take the easy path and do nothing. See, it's the easy path to say, "Well, we'll just let somebody else take care of it. Vote for me." But that's not—to me, that's not how you define leadership. That's not what the people expect. The people expect us regardless of our political party to come up here and solve problems. And we've got some Republicans talking about the issue, which is good. And we've got some Democrats talking about it. And my attitude toward them is bring your ideas forward. I'm interested in building a consensus so that we can say we have done our duty for a younger generation of Americans coming up.

Here are some principles by which I am conducting discussions. One, the reform system must say to future generations, "You'll get benefits equal to or greater than the current generation." I think that's a wise principle to be able to say to somebody putting money into the system—remember, you've got these youngsters now putting money into the system to pay for us, and they're wondering where the system is going to be for them. And the answer is a reform system for people coming up ought to be, "You ought to get benefits equal to or greater than the current benefit structure."

Secondly, I think this principle is very important. And that is if you've worked all your life, you've worked hard at a job, and you've contributed into Social Security, you shouldn't retire into poverty. I mean, the safety net is more than just providing a check. The safety net is to provide, you know, peace of mind in retirement. So I like the idea of sending this principle to Congress. You can work hard, but you're not going to retire into poverty.

And there's a way to make the system do that, and here it is. It's called progressive indexing, an idea that I embraced in a press conference the other day, in the East Room of the White House. And it said this—it says—by the way, right now, benefits increase—they're all increasing, but for everybody they increase at the rate of wage in-

creases, not price increases. Wages go up faster than price. And so the benefits are going up faster than the cost of living.

And so what I think Congress ought to consider doing is saying that for the poorest of Americans, "Your benefits, future benefits will go up based upon wage increases," and for the wealthier of Americans, "Your benefits go up based upon price increases." You know, it's everybody's benefits—calculated benefits for the future. Again, we're talking about a younger generation of Americans coming. Those of us born in 1950—prior to 1950, nothing changes. It's really important for Americans to understand that. It's for the new generation coming up, as we calculate a reformed plan that permanently fixes Social Security.

One idea is to say, for the poor Americans, "Your benefits—calculated benefits over time go up with the rate of wage increases." For wealthy Americans, "It goes up at the rate of inflation, cost of living." And in between, there's a scale. Now, that's a system where we can say, "Poor Americans won't retire into poverty." But interestingly enough, if that were to be passed by Congress, that alone would permanently fix a majority, a significant portion of the Social Security problem. Isn't that interesting? Just that alone, just that change alone would go a long way, a significant way for doing our duty to permanently fix the Social Security problem for a younger generation of Americans.

And I've got one other idea that Congress needs to understand. And by the way, under this system, 99 percent of Americans would—1 percent of Americans would have the same purchasing power they have today; 99 percent would have greater purchasing power under this kind of system.

Today, the average American worker gets \$14,800 a year in benefits from Social Security. Under the plan I just described, that would grow in real terms to \$17,750 by 2055. And yet the system would be—most of the system would be permanently solved, most of the problem would be permanently solved.

You know, a lot of folks, youngsters tell me that—let me say this, I have been told about a survey of youngsters who have said they're more likely to see a UFO than get a Social Security check. [Laughter] If this

idea that says, “If you’re wealthier—top 1 percent of the country—your benefits, future benefits grow by cost of living. If you’re poor, they grow by wage and, in between, is scaled up.” And if you don’t think you’re going to see anything, it seems like to me this makes sense for you if you’re a younger worker getting ready to put something in the system.

Now, there’s a way to make the whole system permanent. There’s other ideas, and I’ll work with anybody who has got a good idea. But my job is not to shirk the problem. It’s to deal with the problem head on and to bring solutions to the table, and here’s a good idea called progressive indexing.

I want to talk about another idea that Congress needs to seriously consider. As we permanently fix the system, we ought to make the system a better deal for younger workers as well. You see, here’s the issue with—another issue with Social Security, it’s called a pay-as-you-go system. You pay your payroll tax, and we go ahead and spend it. *[Laughter]* You see, some people think that the Social Security system is a system where you pay in your Social Security tax, and we hold it for you, and then when you retire, we give it back to you. That’s not the way it works.

The way it works is this: You pay your payroll tax; we pay out to current retirees; and then we spend your money on other Government programs. That’s the way it works. And that’s been going on for quite awhile. I happen to believe there’s a better way to do this than to say there’s a Social Security system where we’re guarding your money and not spending it on other programs.

And here it is: I think the best way to make sure that people have got real assets in the Social Security system, not just IOUs in a file cabinet, is to let younger workers take some of their own money, if they so choose, a voluntary program, and set up a personal savings account. In other words, the proposal I made to Congress says you can take a third of your payroll tax and set it aside as part of your Social Security retirement system.

And here’s why I believe that it makes a lot of sense. First, I like the idea of people owning their own assets in America. I like the idea of people having ownership in something. And I also understand the power of compound interest. In other words, when

you set aside money, it grows. It compounds over time. That’s how money works. Right now in the Social Security system, we get about 1.8 percent on your money for you, which is really low. *[Laughter]* A conservative mix of bonds and stocks is expected to pay about 4.6 percent annually over time. It’s been the historical average. Some of you do a heck of a lot better than that. I was campaigning with—on this issue with Senator McCain, and he thought out loud that he had made about 7 percent on his own personal savings account, conservative mix.

In other words, you can do pretty well with a conservative mix of bonds and stocks. Heck, you can put your money in T-bills alone and do better than the 1.8 percent we get you. And over time, that money grows. The difference between what we can get on your money and what you can get in your own personal savings account, if you decide to set one up, is pretty darn significant.

Let me give you an example. Say you’ve got children that are coming up, and they get married and enter the workforce in 2011. One is a nurse, say, and one is a police officer. Given the salary scales today and given what a 4.6 percent growth rate would mean on money set aside in a personal account, by the time that those folks retire at age 65, they would have a nest egg of \$669,000, plus whatever is left for them in the Social Security system. See, it’s their money. That’s how money grows. That’s what interest does. When you start setting aside money at age 20 years old and it’s earning nearly 5 percent, it grows. It tends to accelerate growth the older you get, by the way. A lot of you know what I’m talking about.

It seems like to me that that makes sense to let younger workers take advantage of the compound rate of interest. It makes sense to give people a better rate of return on their own money. After all, when we’re talking about payroll taxes, we’re not talking about the Government’s money. That’s your money. It’s the money that you put into the Treasury.

The money in the personal accounts, if you—the Government says you can do it and if you decide to do it—remember, this is voluntary. This isn’t to say—the Government is saying, “You must do this.” See, some people

won't be comfortable about putting money aside in a voluntary personal account, and you won't have to. There will be a Social Security—reformed Social Security system available for you. This just says you can put some of it, if you so choose to do so.

If you decide to do so—let me just give you a comparison between the couple I just mentioned to you of today's system and the future system. The couple would receive \$42,000 a year in Social Security benefits. In a reformed system, the total amount of income from both the personal accounts and the Social Security check would grow to nearly 54,000 in today's dollars. See, that's what—when you get your money to grow in an asset base you call your own, it means you have more money to retire with. And that's what we're trying to make sure is available for all folks.

Let me tell you something else wrong with the current Social Security system. If you both work in your family, husband and wife work, and one of you dies before 62 years old, the Social Security system will pay for your burial benefit. And then upon retirement, the surviving spouse gets a choice between the deceased's benefit structure or the survivor's benefit structure from Social Security, but not both.

See, in other words, the system today says, "You get to work all your life, and if you die early, the money you put in the system just goes away." I don't think that's fair. I don't think it's fair to say to a citizen in this country who has been working hard to make a living that the money you've earned through the payroll taxes isn't around anymore if you go on. Your spouse gets the greater of your benefits or her benefits, but not both.

So think about what a personal account would mean: A voluntary personal savings account would mean that there would be an asset base from both the husband and wife. And if one of them unfortunately died early, that asset base, that group of assets that had grown over time, could be passed on to the husband or wife, whoever the spouse is, the surviving spouse. That's fair. That makes sense. It means the money that you have worked for just won't go away. It will be available to help in times of need.

Now, people say to me, "Well, you know, this is going to be hard to figure out how to invest." I said, "It may be," except I want you to all to remember, particularly you older folks here, like me, they've got 401(k)s in society today. I don't remember talking about 401(k)s when I was growing up, or IRAs, but there's a whole investor society.

One of the most amazing events came when I was in Mississippi at an automobile manufacturing plant. And I said, "How many of you all have got 401(k)s?" This was quite a diverse audience, people from all walks of life, mainly line workers. I'll bet you 95 percent of the hands went up. You know, this isn't what you call the typical investor class. These are people working hard to put food on the table. And you know what? They're managing their own money. They're watching their own asset base grow with time. That's healthy for our country, saying to somebody, "You can grow assets, and you can pass your assets on to whomever you want," is good for America. The more people who own something in this country, the better off our country is. The more people from all walks of life have got an asset to pass on to their loved one, the better off America is.

I like the idea of saying, you can take some of your own money, if you so choose, and set up a personal savings account as a part of your retirement plan. You know who else liked it? Members of the United States Congress. [Laughter] They've got what they call the Thrift Savings Plan here in America. It's a plan that says, "It's okay if you're a Member of the United States Senate to take some of your own money and set it aside and watch your money grow at a better rate of return than Government would get for you." It's called a Thrift Savings Plan. And here's my attitude: If a Thrift Savings Plan, if a personal savings account is good enough for a Member of the United States Senate, it is good enough for working people all across America.

Now is the time for Congress to come to the table and get something done. It's important, because we've got unfunded liabilities out there that can serve as a drag on our economy, and we've got a young generation of Americans coming up that are going to be contributing to a system that's broke. And

that's not fair. I believe those of us who've been elected have got a solemn obligation to tackle tough problems. I know that's what the American people expect.

I'm confident we can get something done. I really am. I don't care what all the naysayers say or the people that are so political they can't—they can't get out of their current mindset here in Washington. See, I believe when it's all said and done, the American people are going to start speaking. And louder and louder, they're going to say, "We got the problem with Social Security folks. Now we expect you in Washington to do something about it." And I'm ready to take the lead on it and continue to take the lead on it. There's no doubt in my mind I'm doing the right thing addressing this issue, and there's no doubt in my mind when Republicans and Democrats come together to solve this problem, a lot of good people are going to be saying, "You know what, I've done my duty for the American people."

Thanks for letting me come by to say hello. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:19 p.m. at the Capitol Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Roden, 2005 national chairman, Carole Bionda, 2005 immediate past chair, and Kirk Pickarel, president and chief executive officer, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Janice R. Brown as United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit

June 8, 2005

I commend the Senate for voting to confirm Justice Janice Rogers Brown. During her tenure on the California Supreme Court and California Court of Appeal, Justice Brown has distinguished herself as a brilliant and fair-minded jurist who is committed to the rule of law. Justice Brown exemplifies the American dream of personal achievement and excellence, and she will be a great asset to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in Columbus, Ohio

June 9, 2005

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be back in Columbus, Ohio. I remind people that my grandfather was raised here in Columbus, Ohio. One time I reminded people when I was in Columbus that my grandfather was raised here, my dad's dad—my mother called me; she said, "Why didn't you tell them my father was raised in Dayton?" [Laughter] I said, "From this point forward I will, Mother." [Laughter] My dad's dad was raised in Columbus, and my mother's dad was raised in Dayton. [Laughter] It's nice to be back.

I want to thank you all for letting me come by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. I appreciate what you do here. I appreciate the hard work that you put forth in order to train men and women to be on the front-line of serving our communities and our country. I appreciate the fact that these are tough times for those who wear the uniform. But you've got to understand that the men and women who wear the badge of peace—the peacekeepers, the people on the frontlines of keeping our community safe—have got the gratitude of the American people. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for what you do.

And I appreciate my friend Attorney General Al Gonzales joining me today. Thanks for coming over to introduce me. Get back to work. [Laughter]

I want to thank Governor Taft joining us. Governor, I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank Senator Mike DeWine for joining us today. Proud you're here, Senator. Congressman Pat Tiberi—this is his district—Congressman, I appreciate you coming. He said, by the way, "Ohio State is in my district." He said, "You tell those Texas Longhorns"—[laughter]—I'm not going to tell them what you said. [Laughter] I appreciate Congressman Dave Hobson joining us as well.

I want to thank the State attorney general, Jim Petro, for joining us; U.S. Attorney Greg Lockhart. I want to thank Director Ken Morckel for joining us today. Thank you,

Ken, for being here. Paul McClellan, State and local officials, most of all, people who wear the uniform, I'm proud you're here.

Today when I landed at the airport, I met Dianne Garrett, who is with us today. Dianne has been a volunteer with the Whitehall Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association for 8 years. She represents thousands of people across our country who are working hand in glove with their local law enforcement to make the police stations work better. She's a part of the citizen corps. She's a part of the emergency response team in Whitehall community.

The reason I bring up people like Dianne is it's important for us to always remember that the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. The true strength of this country lies in the hearts of those who are willing to help volunteer to make our communities a more compassionate, decent, and safe place. If you want to serve Ohio, if you want to serve America, help feed the hungry, find shelter for the homeless, volunteer to help our law enforcement do their job. Love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, and you're making a big contribution to America. Dianne, thank you for coming. Go ahead and stand up.

My most solemn duty as the President is to protect the American people. And I'm honored to share that responsibility with you. We have a joint responsibility. As sworn officers of the law, you're devoted to defending your fellow citizens. Your vigilance is keeping our communities safe, and you're serving on the frontlines of the war on terror. It's a different kind of war than a war our Nation was used to. You know firsthand the nature of the enemy. We face brutal men who celebrate murder, who incite suicide, and who would stop at nothing to destroy the liberties we cherish. You know that these enemies cannot be deterred by negotiations or concessions or appeals to reason. In this war, there's only one option, and that option is victory.

Since September the 11th, 2001, we have gone on the offensive against the terrorists. We have dealt the enemy a series of powerful blows. The terrorists are on the run, and we'll keep them on the run. Yet they're still active;

they're still seeking to do us harm. The terrorists are patient and determined, and so are we. They're hoping we'll get complacent and forget our responsibilities. Once again, they're proving that they don't understand our Nation. The United States of America will never let down its guard.

It's a long war, and we have a comprehensive strategy to win it. We're taking the fight to the terrorists abroad so we don't have to face them here at home. We're denying our enemies sanctuary by making it clear that America will not tolerate regimes that harbor or support terrorists. We're stopping the terrorists from achieving ideological victories they seek by spreading hope and freedom and reform across the broader Middle East. By advancing the cause of liberty, we'll lay the foundations for peace for generations to come.

And one of the great honors as the President is to be the Commander in Chief of a fantastic United States military, made fantastic by the quality and the character of the men and women who wear the uniform. Thank you for serving.

As we wage the war on terror overseas, we'll remember where the war began, right here on American soil. In our free and open society, there is no such thing as perfect security. To protect our country, we have to be right 100 percent of the time. To hurt us, the terrorists have to be right only once. So we're working to answer that challenge every day, and we're making good progress toward securing the homeland.

We've enhanced security at coastlines and borders and ports of entry, and we have more work to do. We've strengthened protections at our airports and chemical plants and highways and bridges and tunnels. And we got more work to do. We've made terrorism the top priority for law enforcement, and we've provided unprecedented resources to help folks like yourselves do their jobs.

Since 2001, we've more than tripled spending on homeland security; we've increased funding more than tenfold for the first-responders who protect our homeland. Law enforcement officers stand between our people and great danger, and we're making sure you have the tools necessary to do your job.

We've also improved our ability to track terrorists inside the United States. A vital part of that effort is called the USA PATRIOT Act. The PATRIOT Act closed dangerous gaps in America's law enforcement and intelligence capabilities, gaps the terrorists exploited when they attacked us on September the 11th. Both Houses of Congress passed the PATRIOT Act by overwhelming bipartisan majorities. Ninety-eight out of 100 United States Senators voted for the act. That's what we call bipartisanship. The PATRIOT Act was the clear, considered response of a nation at war, and I was proud to sign that piece of legislation.

Over the past 3½ years, America's law enforcement and intelligence personnel have proved that the PATRIOT Act works, that it was an important piece of legislation. Since September the 11th, Federal terrorism investigations have resulted in charges against more than 400 suspects, and more than half of those charged have been convicted. Federal, State, and local law enforcement have used the PATRIOT Act to break up terror cells in New York and Oregon and Virginia and in Florida. We prosecuted terrorist operatives and supporters in California, in Texas, in New Jersey, in Illinois, and North Carolina and Ohio. These efforts have not always made the headlines, but they've made communities safer. The PATRIOT Act has accomplished exactly what it was designed to do: It has protected American liberty and saved American lives.

The problem is, at the end of this year, 16 critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act are scheduled to expire. Some people call these "sunset provisions." That's a good name, because letting that—those provisions expire would leave law enforcement in the dark. All 16 provisions are practical, important, and they are constitutional. Congress needs to renew them all, and this time, Congress needs to make the provisions permanent.

We need to renew the PATRIOT Act because it strengthens our national security in four important ways. First, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that authorize better sharing of information between law enforcement and intelligence. Before the PATRIOT Act, criminal investiga-

tors were separated from intelligence officers by a legal and bureaucratic wall. A Federal prosecutor who investigated Usama bin Laden in the 1990s explained the challenge this way: "We could talk to citizens, local police officers, foreign police officers; we could even talk to Al Qaida members. But there was one group of people we were not permitted to talk to the FBI agents across the street from us assigned to parallel intelligence investigations of Usama Bin Laden and Al Qaida. That was a wall."

Finding our enemies in the war on terror is tough enough; law enforcement officers should not be denied vital information their own colleagues already have. The PATRIOT Act helped tear down this wall, and now law enforcement and intelligence officers are sharing information and working together and bringing terrorists to justice.

In many terrorism cases, information sharing has made the difference between success and failure. And you have an example right here in Columbus, Ohio. Two years ago, a truck driver was charged with providing support to Al Qaida. His capture came after an investigation that relied on the PATRIOT Act and on contributions from more than a dozen agencies in the Southern Ohio Joint Terrorism Task Force. And members of that task force are with us today. I want to thank you for your contribution to the safety of America, and you'll understand this story I'm about to tell.

For several years, Iman Farris posed as a law-abiding resident of Columbus. But in 2000, he traveled to Afghanistan and met Usama bin Laden at an Al Qaida training camp. Farris helped the terrorists research airplanes and handle cash and purchase supplies. In 2002, he met Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the September the 11th attacks, and he agreed to take part in an Al Qaida plot to destroy a New York City bridge.

After Farris returned to the United States, Federal investigators used the PATRIOT Act to follow his trail. They used new information-sharing provisions to piece together details about his time in Afghanistan and his plan to launch an attack on the United States. They used the PATRIOT Act to discover that Farris had cased possible targets in New York

and that he'd reported his findings to Al Qaida. In the spring of 2003, the FBI confronted Farris and presented the case they had built against him. The case against him was so strong that Farris chose to cooperate, and he spent the next several weeks telling authorities about his Al Qaida association. Farris pled guilty to the charges against him. And today, instead of planning terror attacks against the American people, Iman Farris is sitting in an American prison.

The agents and prosecutors who used the PATRIOT Act to put Farris behind bars did superb work, and they know what a difference information sharing made. Here is what one FBI agent said—he said, “The Farris case would not have happened without sharing information.” That information sharing was made possible by the PATRIOT Act. Another investigator on the case said, “We never would have had the lead to begin with.” You have proved that good teamwork is critical in protecting America. For the sake of our national security, Congress must not rebuild a wall between law enforcement and intelligence.

Second, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that allow investigators to use the same tools against terrorists that they already use against other criminals. Before the PATRIOT Act, it was easier to track the phone contacts of a drug dealer than the phone contacts of an enemy operative. Before the PATRIOT Act, it was easier to get the credit card receipts of a tax cheat than an Al Qaida bankroller. Before the PATRIOT Act, agents could use wiretaps to investigate a person committing mail fraud but not to investigate a foreign terrorist. The PATRIOT Act corrected all these pointless double standards, and America is safer as a result.

One tool that has been especially important to law enforcement is called a roving wiretap. Roving wiretaps allow investigators to follow suspects who frequently change their means of communications. These wiretaps must be approved by a judge, and they have been used for years to catch drug dealers and other criminals. Yet, before the PATRIOT Act, agents investigating terrorists had to get a separate authorization for each phone they wanted to tap. That means terror-

ists could elude law enforcement by simply purchasing a new cell phone. The PATRIOT Act fixed the problem by allowing terrorism investigators to use the same wiretaps that were already being used against drug kingpins and mob bosses. The theory here is straightforward: If we have good tools to fight street crime and fraud, law enforcement should have the same tools to fight terrorism.

Third, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that updated the law to meet high-tech threats like computer espionage and cyberterrorism. Before the PATRIOT Act, Internet providers who notified Federal authorities about threatening e-mails ran the risk of getting sued. The PATRIOT Act modernized the law to protect Internet companies who voluntarily disclose information to save lives.

It's commonsense reform, and it's delivered results. In April 2004, a man sent an e-mail to an Islamic center in El Paso and threatened to burn the mosque to the ground in 3 days. Before the PATRIOT Act, the FBI could have spent a week or more waiting for the information they needed. Thanks to the PATRIOT Act, an Internet provider was able to provide the information quickly and without fear of a lawsuit, and the FBI arrested the man before he could fulfill his threat.

Terrorists are using every advantage they can to inflict harm. Terrorists are using every advantage of 21st century technology, and Congress needs to ensure that our law enforcement can use that same advantage as well.

Finally, we need to renew the critical provisions of the PATRIOT Act that protect our civil liberties. The PATRIOT Act was written with clear safeguards to ensure the law is applied fairly. The judicial branch has a strong oversight role. Law enforcement officers need a Federal judge's permission to wiretap a foreign terrorist's phone, a Federal judge's permission to track his calls, or a Federal judge's permission to search his property. Officers must meet strict standards to use any of these tools, and these standards are fully consistent with the Constitution of the United States.

Congress also oversees the application of the PATRIOT Act. Congress has recently created a Federal board to ensure that the

PATRIOT Act and other laws respect privacy and civil liberties, and I'll soon name five talented Americans to serve on that board. Attorney General Gonzales delivers regular reports on the PATRIOT Act to the House and the Senate. And the Department of Justice has answered hundreds of questions from Members of Congress. One Senator, Dianne Feinstein of California, has worked with civil rights groups to monitor my administration's use of the PATRIOT Act. Here's what she said, "We've scrubbed the area, and I have no reported abuses." Remember that the next time you hear someone make an unfair criticism of this important, good law. The PATRIOT Act has not diminished American liberties; the PATRIOT Act has helped to defend American liberties.

Every day the men and women of law enforcement use the PATRIOT Act to keep America safe. It's the nature of your job that many of your most important achievements must remain secret. Americans will always be grateful for the risks you take and for the determination you bring to this high calling—you have done your job. Now those of us in Washington have to do our job. The House and Senate are moving forward with the process to renew the PATRIOT Act. My message to Congress is clear: The terrorist threats against us will not expire at the end of the year, and neither should the protections of the PATRIOT Act.

I want to thank you for letting me come and talk about this important piece of legislation. I want to thank you for being on the frontlines of securing this country. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our Nation. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:22 a.m. at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; Kenneth L. Morckel, director, Ohio Department of Public Safety; Col. Paul D. McClellan, superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Judges for the United States Court of Appeals

June 9, 2005

I am pleased that the Senate voted today to confirm three distinguished and highly qualified judges to the United States Court of Appeals: Judge Bill Pryor, Judge Richard Griffin, and Judge David McKeague.

More than a year ago, I recess appointed Judge Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit to fill a vacancy that had been designated a judicial emergency by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Pryor's recent service on the Eleventh Circuit has built on an impressive career of public service in which he has applied the law fairly and impartially to all people. I commend the Senate for fulfilling its constitutional responsibility to vote on Judge Pryor and for confirming him so that he will continue his service on this court.

Both Judge Griffin and Judge McKeague have served on the Michigan courts for more than a decade, during which time each has demonstrated a strong commitment to the rule of law. Both are well qualified to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and will fill vacancies that have been designated judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

These three nominees have waited a combined total of over 8 years for their votes. I applaud the Senate for today giving these fine nominees the up-or-down votes they deserve.

Videotape Remarks to the People of Africa

June 8, 2005

For the past several years, the United States has worked with African leaders on bold initiatives to encourage reform within the continent. Our goal is to improve the lives of the African people, and our partnership is yielding results. The economies of

many African nations are growing. And in sub-Saharan Africa as a whole, economic growth is now at its highest level in 8 years.

The growth of your economies has been helped by strong trade ties between our continents. Last year I signed the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act, which will continue to reduce barriers to trade, increase exports, create jobs, and expand opportunity for Africans and Americans alike. This agreement is giving American businesses greater confidence to invest in Africa. It also encourages African nations to reform their economies. And the law is producing results: Last year, U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa increased 25 percent, and America's imports from AGOA countries rose 88 percent.

This success reflects the growing consensus in both Africa and the United States that open trade and international investment are the surest and fastest ways for Africa to make progress. AGOA nations are strengthening the rule of law. They are lowering trade barriers. They are combating corruption and protecting workers and eliminating child labor. They are setting an important example for the entire continent, demonstrating that governments that respect individual rights and encourage the development of their markets are more likely to grow economically and achieve political stability.

As we increase trade, we are also reforming the way we deliver aid. For too many years, our assistance to Africa was sent without regard to results. Under my Administration, U.S. development aid to African nations has increased, but we are not just giving more aid; we are being wiser about how it is spent.

The idea is based on common sense: Aid works best in countries that are proving their commitment to govern justly, respect the rule of law, invest in their citizens, and open up their economies. When nations do these things and expand freedom and opportunities to all their citizens, entire societies can be lifted out of poverty and despair. In 2002, we launched the Millennium Challenge Account to provide aid to poorer nations based on these principles. In April, Madagascar became the first country to sign a Compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and

I am confident that other African nations will follow.

At a time when freedom is on the march around the world, it is vital that the continent of Africa be a place of democracy and prosperity and hope where people grow up healthy and have the opportunity to realize their dreams. Africa is a continent of promise, and the United States wants to help the people of Africa realize the brighter future they deserve.

NOTE: The President's remarks were taped at 11:05 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on Voice of America's radio and television stations beginning June 8. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 10.

Remarks on the PATRIOT Act in McLean, Virginia

June 10, 2005

Thanks for the warm welcome. It is really exciting to come and spend time in this fine facility and to meet the men and women who work at the National Counterterrorism Center. I just met with some who spend long hours preparing threat assessments, and it was my honor to tell them how much I appreciate their hard work and appreciate the daily briefing I get every single morning.

I want to thank you all for taking on such demanding assignments and important assignments. My message to the folks here is, thanks for being on the frontline and protecting America during the war on terror. You know, it's a different kind of war. It's a war that seems like there's maybe no action taking place, that maybe the enemy is not active. You know, I was concerned after September the 11th that the tendency would be to forget the nature of the people with whom you deal on a daily basis. But I understand that there is an enemy that still lurks, and you know it as well.

And so on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you for working hard to protect America. I want to thank you for your dedication. I want to thank you for your service and sacrifice.

The NCTC plays a key part in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. It's

a crucial part of making sure that we can say to the American people, we're collecting intelligence and information, and we're sharing intelligence and information across jurisdictional lines to better protect the people and do our most solemn duty, which is to protect America.

And I want to thank Ambassador and Director John Negroponte's leadership on this issue. I want to thank him for his willingness to step forward to serve. And I appreciate his understanding of how important the NCTC is.

I also want to thank John Brennan, who has been the Acting Director of the NCTC. I can remember first meeting John—it probably seems like a decade ago for him—[laughter]—I think it was actually a couple of years ago, when he first described what this facility would be like. He laid out the vision for what would take place here, and I want to thank John for his leadership, his dedication to the effort. It must bring John great comfort, as well as those who have worked with John, to see how this facility has evolved over time. This is a magnificent blend of technology and human talent, all working together to break down walls and barriers that had existed prior to September the 11th, to better protect the people.

And today I'm pleased to announce the fact that upon John Negroponte's recommendation, that we will nominate Vice Admiral John Redd to be the Director of the NCTC. He's a man of enormous experience. He has served our country with distinction. He'll be a good boss. He'll be a person that will be able to carry on the tradition of John Brennan.

I appreciate the Attorney General traveling with me today. We're not only talking about intelligence sharing; we're telling about—we're talking about how to act upon that intelligence today. Attorney General Al Gonzales is doing a fine job, as is the Director of the FBI, Bob Mueller.

I also appreciate Porter Goss, who is running the CIA, for joining us today. I went out to the CIA the other day, and I reminded the good folks who work there that CIA stands for Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA is a vital part of making sure that this country is safe and sound and a vital part

of making sure that my administration and myself get the type of information necessary to make the decisions that we need to make to make the world a more peaceful place.

I appreciate Fran Townsend, who is my Homeland Security Adviser. Fran is constantly briefing me on interagency issues and keeping me up to speed about the work you're doing.

Today we're also joined by Federal prosecutors and law enforcement officials who have helped bring terrorists to justice with the help of the PATRIOT Act. I'll talk about them in a minute. Thank you all for coming.

The purpose of the NCTC is to make sure our Government has the information we need. It's an information-gathering organization. It is all aimed—all the work here is aimed at keeping America safe. A lot of Americans have never heard of the NCTC. One of the reasons I came by was hopefully it will help draw attention to the good work you do here, so that the people of this country can be comforted in knowing that 24 hours a day there's some really fine people spending a lot of time doing whatever they can to protect our fellow citizens.

September the 11th showed that protecting America requires that we remove walls between agencies. Here at the NCTC, men and women from different agencies, of different backgrounds, work side by side to share information, to analyze information, to integrate information. See, prior to the attack, it was—we kind of all went about our own merry way. There was some interagency dialog but not a lot. And we learned a lesson about having walls between our agencies, and we're tearing those walls down. And here's a classic example of Government working—functioning better because of people talking to each other.

I appreciate the fact that here you pool your expertise and your computer systems, all aimed at shining the spotlight on enemies who think they can hide in the shadows of the world. I appreciate the clear picture that you present. See, by working together, you're able to bring information to a central spot, and then present a clear picture to decision-makers.

I also appreciate the fact that you're helping to ensure that Federal, State, and local

law enforcement have the information they need to do their jobs. Thanks to your efforts, we're confronting the terrorists every day. See, the strategy is we'll defeat them before they attack us; we'll face them overseas before we have to face them here at home. And the best way to make sure we do so is with the best possible intelligence.

One of the most important tools to combat terror is the PATRIOT Act. Congress passed the PATRIOT Act with overwhelming bipartisan majorities. Over the past 3½ years, law enforcement and intelligence officers have proved that the PATRIOT Act works. It's a good piece of legislation. The PATRIOT Act has made a difference for those on the front-line of taking the information you have gathered and using it to protect the American people.

At the end of this year, 16 key provisions of the PATRIOT Act are set to expire. In other words, the act that has worked, the act that has delivered good results or given people the tools to deliver results, is now set to expire. That doesn't make any sense to me, that if something is working, why should it expire? We need to renew the PATRIOT Act. We need to renew the PATRIOT Act because it has strengthened our national security. And here are four ways it has strengthened our national security.

First, it authorizes law enforcement and intelligence to share vital information. Can you believe our system didn't allow parts of the FBI to share information? For example, if the intelligence group didn't—had a piece of information, they couldn't share it with the enforcement people, the law enforcement people. That doesn't make any sense. And so the PATRIOT Act enabled us to tear down walls.

Secondly, the PATRIOT Act allows law enforcement to use the same tools against terrorists that they already use against criminals like drug dealers and mob bosses. It seems to make sense to me. I know it makes sense for the American people that if it's okay to use a certain tool to track a drug lord, we ought to be able to use that same tool to track a terrorist. And that's what the PATRIOT Act provided our law enforcement with, the ability to react consistently.

Thirdly, the PATRIOT Act adopts the law to meet high-tech threats like computer espionage and cyberterrorism. It was a smart thing to put in the PATRIOT Act new provisions, provisions of law that said, "Wait a minute, the enemy can use the Internet; why shouldn't we be able to counteract that activities—that activity by the enemy?"

And finally, the PATRIOT Act protects the privacy and civil liberties of every American. That's what the American people have got to understand. The PATRIOT Act conforms to our Constitution, that as we fight this war on terror, we'll honor our Constitution. As we fight the war on terror, we'll protect the civil liberties of our citizens.

Let me give you some examples of how Federal prosecutors and law enforcement agents have used the PATRIOT Act to get results. Mike Battle, the former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, is with us. Mike helped prosecute the Lackawanna Six terror cell. See, there was a terror cell existing in the United States of America. And Mike and law enforcement officials there in the summer of 2001 started investigating the Lackawanna Six. But they had to set up two separate investigations, a criminal investigation for drug crimes and a separate intelligence investigation for terror activity. And agents from the two investigations did not discuss their findings with each other.

Then Congress passed the PATRIOT Act, and the two sides started sharing information. See, prior to the PATRIOT Act, parts of the same FBI office couldn't discuss a case with each other. And as a result of information sharing, the agents discovered that the suspects had attended an Al Qaida training camp in Afghanistan. The prosecutor used the information to build a convincing case, and today, all six of the Lackawanna folks are in Federal prison. In other words, the PATRIOT Act worked. We've got hard-working people in the field, and so we gave the people tools—simple tools—that said, "Here, this will enable you to better do your job." You can't ask people on the frontline of the war on terror to protect the American people and then not give them the tools necessary to do so.

Carol Lam is with us. She's the U.S. Attorney from the Southern District of California.

The information-sharing provisions in the PATRIOT Act helped Carol and her team connect the dots in an Al Qaida drugs-for-weapons plot. They put together such a strong case that two defendants admitted their plans to sell drugs for Stinger missiles and then sell those missiles to the Taliban. They're now in prison, thanks to Carol's good work and thanks to the ability for prosecutors and law enforcement to use the tools of the PATRIOT Act to better protect the American people.

Rob Spencer is the U.S.—Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. He worked with Paul McNulty and used information obtained through the PATRIOT Act to lock up 10 men from the Virginia Jihad network. Some of those terrorists trained at camps in Pakistan and hoped to attack American troops in Afghanistan. Information from the investigation has also helped lead to the prosecutions of terror suspects in Australia and Great Britain.

I mean, not only are we sharing information here at home; we're sharing information with our allies, with our coalition partners. See, terrorists are willing to strike at anybody who loves freedom, and our job is to protect free societies—the freest of all societies here at home and the free societies amongst our coalition partners. And the PATRIOT Act has helped do just that.

Kelly Moore is the Assistant U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of New York. Kelly used information-sharing provisions in the PATRIOT Act to build a case against a terrorist bankroller who had boasted about personally handing \$20 million to Usama bin Laden. They also busted another money raiser who planned to fund Al Qaida and Hamas. They were extradited to Germany, and they were convicted of the charges in March of this year.

This is another example of the use of the PATRIOT Act to protect our country. I mean, listen, we got people who want to support these killers with their money. And part of securing the country is to cut off the flow of money, is to chase the money. By chasing the money, we can find facilitators. So these good folks use the PATRIOT Act to help find the money, and by finding the money, we

helped remove a threat to the United States of America.

John Kavanaugh, FBI Special Agent in Florida—John used the PATRIOT Act to help prosecutors pursue a case against three alleged terror supporters for funding murders and kidnappings abroad. Two of them are now in Federal custody, and the other is serving time overseas for terrorist activity.

Robert Schumaker, FBI Supervisory Special Agent from Illinois—Robert led the investigation that helped close down a phony charity in Illinois that was channeling money to Al Qaida. Robert's efforts, combined with the information-sharing authorities in the PATRIOT Act, allowed prosecutors to build a case against a director of that sham organization.

We're not only finding people and bringing them to justice; we're shutting down their sources for money. We're taking away their lifeblood, which is money. Listen, we're a free society, and people come and take advantage of our freedom. And so what we've got to do is use information and intelligence to deny them the capacity to funnel money, in this case to organizations that want to do harm to the United States and our friends and allies.

I want you to know that the information sharing as a result of the PATRIOT Act allowed the prosecutors in this case to build a case against the director, and he's now in prison. We're patient here in America. We're slowly but surely dismantling an organization that wants to do us harm. It doesn't matter how long it takes; we will stay on the offense. We spend a lot of time here in America protecting our borders and ports and airports, but the best way to secure the country is to stay on the offense, is to go find them before they can hurt us. And that's exactly what we're doing.

And the PATRIOT Act has helped us accomplish that objective. The PATRIOT Act has helped save American lives, and it's protected American liberty. For the sake of our national security, the United States Congress needs to renew all the provisions of the PATRIOT Act, and this time Congress needs to make those provisions permanent.

I want to thank you for letting me come by. I appreciate the hard work you do. May

God bless you all and your families, and may God continue to bless our country. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. at the National Counterterrorism Center. In his remarks, he referred to Paul McNulty, U.S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist network.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea and an Exchange With Reporters

June 10, 2005

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the President of our very close ally to the Oval Office. I'll have a statement; the President will have a statement. Then I'll answer two questions from the American press.

I first want to express my country's deepest condolences for the accident that took place, where a U.S. military vehicle killed a Korean woman. And we send our deepest sympathies to the woman's families. And, Mr. President, I just want you to know our heart—our hearts are sad as a result of this incident.

The President and I had a very long discussion about very important issues. And we'll continue this discussion over lunch. And the reason why we've had a serious discussion on important issues is because we're strategic partners and allies and friends.

I appreciate the President's good advice, and we share the same goals, peace on the Korean Peninsula and peace throughout the world. We share the same goals: We want our peoples to grow up in a peaceful society that's a prosperous society.

And so, Mr. President, welcome. Thank you for coming, and thank you for your friendship.

President Roh. I thank you for your warm welcome, and I also thank you for the opportunity for us to engage in extensive discussions on various issues. I also thank you, Mr. President, for your warm message of condolence regarding the unfortunate incident involving U.S. forces Korea.

This is my fourth meeting with you, Mr. President, and my second visit to the United

States. And every time we meet together, Mr. President, questions abound regarding the possible existence of differences between Korea and the United States surrounding the North Korea nuclear issue. But every time I meet you, Mr. President, in person, I come to the realization that there indeed is no difference between our two sides with regard to the basic principles. In fact, we're in full and perfect agreement on the basic principles. And whatever problem arises in the course of our negotiations and talks, we will be able to work them out under close consultations.

There are, admittedly, many people who worry about potential discord or cacophony between the two powers of the alliance. But after going through our discussion today, Mr. President, I realize once again that with regard to all the matters and all the issues of great importance, we were able to deal with them and we were able to bring closure to them smoothly. And I am very certain that our alliance remains solid and will continue to remain solid and staunch in the future as well.

To be sure, there are one or two minor issues, but I'm also quite certain that we will be able to work them out very smoothly through dialog in the period ahead. How do you feel, Mr. President? Wouldn't you agree that the alliance is strong and everything is working—

President Bush. I would say the alliance is very strong, Mr. President. And I want to thank you for your frank assessment of the situation on the Peninsula. And I'm looking forward to having lunch with you. I'm hungry, like you are. *[Laughter]*

So I'm going to answer two questions, first from Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

Situation in North Korea

Q. Mr. President, just two days ago, the Vice Foreign Minister of North Korea said they do have a nuclear arsenal and they're building more. Doesn't statements like that make it—suggest that North Korea will not come back to the bargaining table? And doesn't it make it harder to bridge the kinds of differences that do remain between the U.S. and South Korea?

President Bush. No, I—South Korea and the United States share the same goal, and that is a Korean Peninsula without a nuclear weapon. And that's what we've been discussing, how best to do that. And the President and I both agree the six-party talks are essential to saying to Mr. Kim Chong-il that he ought to give up his weapons. We're making it very clear to him that the way to join the community of nations is to listen to China and South Korea and Japan and Russia and the United States—and that is to give up nuclear weapons. And we'll continue to work, to have one voice.

We laid out a way forward last June that is a reasonable proposal, and we're still awaiting the answer to that proposal. But today's meeting should make it clear that South Korea and the United States are of one voice on this very important issue.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Sir, are there any inducements you're willing to offer to get North Korea back to the talks? And if I could ask about Syria as well.

President Bush. Steve, first of all, the first part of your two-part question is this: Last June we did lay out a way forward. And it's just not the United States; this was a plan that the United States and South Korea and China and Japan and Russia put on the table. And the plan is still there, and it's full of inducements.

The second part, on Syria—

Syria

Q. Is it your feeling that Syria still has intelligence operatives in Lebanon, and are they carrying out targeted political killings?

President Bush. Well, I've been disturbed by reports I read in today's newspaper that said that Syrian intelligence officers might still be in Lebanon and might still be there. And our message—and it's not just the message of the United States; the United Nations has said the same thing—is that in order for Lebanon to be free, is for Syria to not only remove her military but to remove intelligence officers as well. And obviously, we're going to follow up on these troubling reports, and we expect the Syrian Government to follow up on these troubling reports.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:17 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea. A reporter referred to Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye-gwan of North Korea. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Thabo Mbeki June 10, 2005

Our two nations are committed to deepening the close bonds of cooperation and shared values of peace and prosperity that mark the U.S./South Africa bilateral relationship. In our meeting on June 1, we shared perspectives on vital bilateral and international issues, including: trade and economic development; eradication of poverty; the fight against HIV/AIDS; global cooperation against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; debt management in Africa; and the compelling need to help all people attain the blessings of freedom, democracy, and security.

Building Peace and Security

We discussed South Africa's experience as a beacon for reconciliation and as an important leader in resolving conflicts. We recognized the significant progress in resolving the devastating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sudan. Looking to the future, we identified mutual support for United Nations and African Union initiatives as essential to building a durable peace in these countries.

- We agreed that all nations should uphold and enforce internationally established obligations to prevent the further spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and expressed our mutual determination to deal forcefully with the threat of international terrorism.

Spreading Economic Growth and Well-Being

The productive meeting afforded us the opportunity to reaffirm our joint vision for African economic growth and development, a vision built around the principles of good

governance and accountability established both in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the 2002 Monterrey Consensus.

We noted with satisfaction the positive benefits for South Africa and the region of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). We agreed that our two countries share a strong interest in the successful completion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and will work together in the WTO toward the elimination of agriculture-export subsidies, the reduction of trade-distorting domestic support, and substantial improvements in agricultural-market access. We agreed on the economic benefits of a U.S.-Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Free Trade Agreement and its potential to create economic growth and jobs, and we asked our negotiators to intensify efforts to conclude such an agreement.

We also look forward to a positive outcome of the upcoming G-8 Summit reaffirming the G-8's commitment to supporting Africa's efforts to address the challenges and realize the opportunities the continent faces. We agreed to strengthen our joint efforts to cooperate to combat the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other infectious diseases.

Expanding Democracy and Freedom

We agreed that our two nations should identify ways to work together even more effectively in the international arena to promote these principles of democracy and human rights.

We stressed that a democratic, stable, and economically prosperous Zimbabwe is in the interests of the African continent and international community. We expressed our deep concern about the food crisis and the suffering of the people of the southern African region—Zimbabwe, in particular.

Next Steps

To fulfill our joint goals and interests, we agreed to take the following concrete steps over the next 12 months:

- Expand U.S. cooperation with the NEPAD to support its vision of im-

proved governance, better economic management, and regional integration;

- Work with the African Union to promote development and good governance in Africa, support South African leadership in resolving conflict and building peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burundi;
- Enhance U.S.-South African military cooperation, including training and equipping a South African battalion and establishing a joint training program to support the African Standby Force and peacekeeping initiatives throughout the continent;
- Work together toward strengthening the efforts of the Zimbabwe people to achieve a peaceful resolution to that country's political and economic crisis;
- Initiate senior-level consultations on human rights, particularly for women and children, including multilateral mechanisms;
- Deepen cooperation to end terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and
- Intensify efforts to conclude a U.S.-SACU Free Trade Agreement.

Our two governments will meet regularly to consult on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues of shared importance. We asked the United States Secretary of State and the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs to oversee bilateral consultations on these initiatives and report to us in twelve months on concrete results.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue and to an even greater cooperation at all levels in our governments.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on the Resignation of Harvey S. Rosen as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers

June 10, 2005

Harvey Rosen has served with distinction on the Council of Economic Advisers. He has been a vital and trusted member of my

economic team, and his sound counsel helped lay the foundation for economic growth and job creation. I appreciate Harvey's hard work and dedication, and I wish him and Marsha all the best.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 4

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Fort Lauderdale, FL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. Upon arrival in Fort Lauderdale, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jaclyn Einstein.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

June 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with a delegation of Chinese legislators.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with leaders of the Salvation Army.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

In the evening, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working dinner with Prime Minister Blair.

June 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

In the afternoon, in the Diplomatic Reception Room, the President participated in an interview with Neil Cavuto of FOX News for later broadcast.

Later in the afternoon, in the Cabinet Room, the President met with Republican Members of Congress to discuss legislative priorities.

In the evening, in the Family Theater, the President and representatives of Universal Pictures viewed a screening of the film "Cinderella Man".

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Festus Mogae of Botswana, President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana, President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique, President Hifikepunye Pohamba of Namibia, and President Mamadou Tandja of Niger to the White House on June 13.

June 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations to discuss the Secretary-General's recent visit to Africa and regional issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Columbus, OH, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Dianne Garrett.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mian Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri of Pakistan.

Later in the afternoon, in the Residence, the President met with Democrat Members of the House of Representatives to discuss the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

The President announced his intention to nominate Henry Crumpton to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the Department of State, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

The President announced his intention to nominate Benjamin A. Powell to be General Counsel of the Office of Director of National Intelligence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald Spogli to be Ambassador to Italy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert H. Tuttle to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

The President announced his intention to designate Paul W. Curry as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (Management).

The President announced his intention to redesignate LaSalle Doheny Leffall, Jr., as Chairman of the President's Cancer Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael O. Leavitt and Jim Nicholson as members of the Policy Committee of the White House Conference on Aging.

June 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to McLean, VA, where he toured the National Counterterrorism Center. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working lunch with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea.

Later in the afternoon, the President participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Year awards.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carol E. Dinkins to be Chairman and Alan Charles Raul to be Vice Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Lanny J. Davis, Theodore B. Olson, and Francis X. Taylor as members of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate John S. Redd to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 6

John Ross Beyrle,
of Michigan, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Alan W. Eastham, Jr.,
of Arkansas, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malawi.

John R. Fisher,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of 15 years, vice Annice M. Wagner, retired.

Charles A. Ford,
of Georgia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras.

Kevin I. Fromer,
of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice John M. Duncan.

Henry Louis Johnson,
of Mississippi, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, vice Raymond Simon, resigned.

Marcus C. Peacock,
of Minnesota, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Stephen L. Johnson, resigned.

Katherine Hubay Peterson,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Botswana.

John M. Reich,
of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision for a term of 5 years, vice James Gilleran, term expired.

Marie L. Yovanovitch,
of Connecticut, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Withdrawn June 6

John M. Reich,
of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision for a term expiring October 23, 2007, vice James Gilleran, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on May 25, 2005.

Submitted June 8

John Richard Smoak,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, vice C. Roger Vinson, retired.

Kenneth L. Wainstein,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of 4 years, vice Roscoe Conklin Howard, Jr., resigned.

Submitted June 9

Henry Crumpton,
of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, vice J. Cofer Black.

Benjamin A. Powell,
of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (new position).

Ronald Spogli,
of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Italian Republic.

Robert H. Tuttle,
of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 6

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released June 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Fighting Hunger and Addressing Humanitarian Needs in Africa

Fact sheet: Addressing Hunger and Humanitarian Emergencies in Africa

Released June 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Transcript of a press briefing via telephone by Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Harvey S. Rosen on the administration's economic forecast

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Presidents Festus Mogae, John Kufuor, Armando Guebuza, Hifikepunye Pohamba, and Mamadou Tandja

Joint Press Release of the Council of Economic Advisers, the Department of the Treasury, and the Office of Management and Budget

Released June 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: The PATRIOT Act Helps Keep America Safe

Released June 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Checklist of White House Press Releases

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.